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30 March 1963

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN



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Iraq: (Iraqi Foreign Minister Shabib has pointed up several urgent problems facing the new regime in an evident bid for broad US assistance.)

(Shabib told the US ambassador on 26 March that there is considerable danger of a Communist resurgence. He said that economic gains must come quickly in order to undercut Communist strength in the country.)

(Shabib also doubted that negotiations with the Kurds would prove fruitful and indicated that the government might order a resumption of fighting so as to "protect the essentials of Iraqi sovereignty" over the Kurdish area.)

(The foreign minister stated that the Iraqi claim to Kuwait did not die with Qasim and that the majority of Iraqis consider it justifiable. Some form of integration with Iraq must be devised, he said, whereby Iraq will assume Kuwait's defense and foreign affairs obligations and the Kuwaiti agreement with the United Kingdom will be abrogated. He argued that half of Kuwait's oil income should be placed in a Kuwait-Iraq development fund for use in Iraq or other Arab countries.)

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DAILY BRIEF

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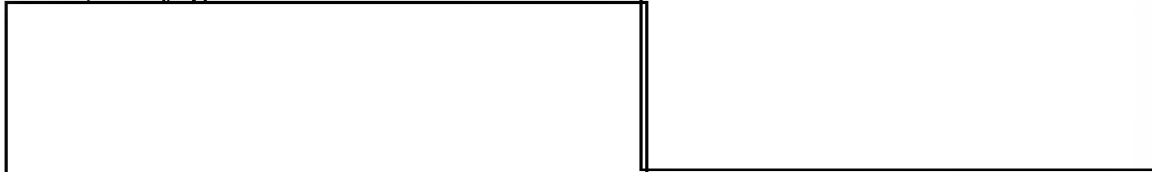
Turkey: Antagonisms and political differences have become so intense that the continuation of normal parliamentary government may be in jeopardy.

Circumstances surrounding the sacking of the opposition Justice Party headquarters on 27 March suggest that some new element may have entered the picture. Police and MPs stood idly by during the attack and later arrested several persons who had attempted to defend the building.

The US Embassy speculates that some officials of Prime Minister Inonu's Republican Peoples Party may have been overzealous in the affair, or military elements which want civil government to fail may have instigated the events. It also considers it possible that the government miscalculated the depth of the feeling of the youth groups.

Ambassador Hare believes that if the demonstrations resume the situation could deteriorate to the point where the already sorely tried effort at parliamentary government could crumble.

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DAILY BRIEF

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Guatemala: (Conflicting reports as to the whereabouts of presidential candidate Juan Jose Arevalo continue to be received but he seems to intend to carry out his promise to start campaigning in person in Guatemala by 31 March.)

(His public reappearance in Guatemala could set off a violent reaction.)

(Despite the imposition of a state of siege on 25 March, however, and orders by military leaders to arrest Arevalo on arrival, the army may be unwilling to risk public disapproval by taking action against him. President Ydigoras seems unwilling to make a martyr of him, and may have agreed to facilitate his surreptitious return in the hope of avoiding violence and a possible military coup.)

(Ydigoras seems still to believe that Arevalo can be defeated in an election. He may also calculate that if Arevalo were elected and again proved too tolerant of the Communists, the responsibility for dealing with him would fall to the army and the US, and that there would be no adverse reflection on the present administration.)

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South Korea: (Regime officials fear that current student restiveness will soon result in sizable demonstrations.)

(Army Chief of Staff Kim Chong-o has ordered measures to be taken to "keep the excited students quieted down." A spokesman for 400 students meeting in Seoul on 29 March said they would demonstrate unless the regime lived up to its pledge to transfer power to a civilian government. Elements both hostile to the regime and friendly to it have been seeking student support during the crisis.)

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(Thus far there has been no break in the deadlock between the regime and politicians who are demanding a return to civilian government this year. Junta leader Pak Chong-hui apparently is trying to undercut the position of civilian leaders by luring some politicians into an "interim" government that the junta would effectively control. As an alternative, the regime is pressing for the withdrawal of some civilians from politics, as a condition for holding national elections. Pak has told Ambassador Berger that he is willing to meet with civilian leaders if they agreed to either of these steps.)

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NOTES

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*France: (The striking miners' unions are reportedly willing to resume negotiations on the basis of the government's clarification of its wage offer, which may afford a basis for a compromise. Remaining differences appear to be largely over the effective dates of wage increases. The unions are reportedly worried about their diminishing strike funds, and have lost the support of the iron miners and gas-field workers, who have ended their strike.

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India - Communist China: India's plan to impose an embargo on trade with Communist China is aimed mainly at curtailing the transshipment of Indian goods to the Chinese in Tibet through Nepal. In other respects, the proposed action is an empty gesture, since bilateral trade is negligible and political relations are at rock bottom.

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Iran: (Clashes between Moslem religious leaders (mullahs) and supporters of the Shah's reform policies have taken place in two cities in recent days. The mullahs reportedly are planning antigovernment demonstrations in Tehran on 3 and 4 April. Their leaflets have recently linked the United States with Israel as an enemy of Islam and the Koran.)

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